A DEATH IN THE FAMILY COLLECTED IN TPB❖GRELL TO DO SWAMP ANGEL PRESTIGE SERIES FOR DC❖MANGAZINE RETURNS❖MAI SEES GRAPHIC NOVEL IN FUTURE❖SHAZAM IS NEW FEATURE IN ACW❖DECEMBER HOT PICKS!

NUMBER 76
Dec. 13, 1988

COMIC SHOP NEWS

From

A Comics Specialty Outlet

THE WEEKLY COMICS NEWSLETTER!

Bruce Wayne's Lost Years the Focus of Multi-Part Saga

by Cliff Biggers

CSN has already told you about the upcoming 3-part, 142 page Batman story that begins in ***Detective #598***; now we can tell you exactly what's going on in this epic-length Batman story, set to begin on February 9th.

The story, written by Sam Hamm, who is better known for his work as the writer of the screenplay for the upcoming ***Batman*** film, will reveal long-kept secrets about Bruce Wayne's "lost years"--that is, the decade that he devoted himself to gaining the skills necessary to become the Batman. These revelations will occur against the backdrop of a series of brutal murders in Gotham City--murders committed by a killer who returns from the dead over and over again. The story will focus on Bruce Wayne's character as well as the Batman's, and will give readers insights into the beginnings of the Wayne Foundation and Wayne Technologies, in addition to revealing the motivations behind the man who became the darknight detective.

A Tim Truman pin-up from an upcoming *Batman Special*

The artist for the series is the critically acclaimed artist of ***The Question*** and of Marvel's ***Black Panther*** limited series released earlier this year, Denys Cowan. Inking on the series will be supplied by Dick Giordano, who has recently inked the ***Man of Steel*** limited series and inked Neal Adams' pencils on some classic ***Batman*** tales in the early 1970's.

The graphic-novel-length series will begin with an eighty-page giant installment featuring 60 pages of Batman story in ***Detective #598***. The remainder of the issue will be filled with a gallery of Batman art from some of the best-known artists from both inside and outside the comics field; there will also be quotations and essays by writers about the Batman.

Detective #599, on sale in March, will be a standard-sized issue; the finale will appear in ***Detective #600***, another 80-page-giant-sized issue that will also mark the 50th anniversary of Batman's debut in ***Detective Comics #27***. Like ***Detective #598***, ***Detective #600*** will also carry additional material along with the story's conclusion.

Detective #598 will be priced at $2.95; ***Detective #599*** will carry a standard price-tag, while the anniversary issue ***Detective #600*** will be another $2.95 issue. The two higher-priced issues will be produced in the same squarebound format used for the recent ***Invasion!*** series. Bob Wayne of DC Comics says that DC will not reprint this mega-story for at least a year after its publication in comics form; with a work of this scope and caliber, though, a 1990 reprinting seems most likely.

Paranormals Become Weapons of War

by Cliff Biggers

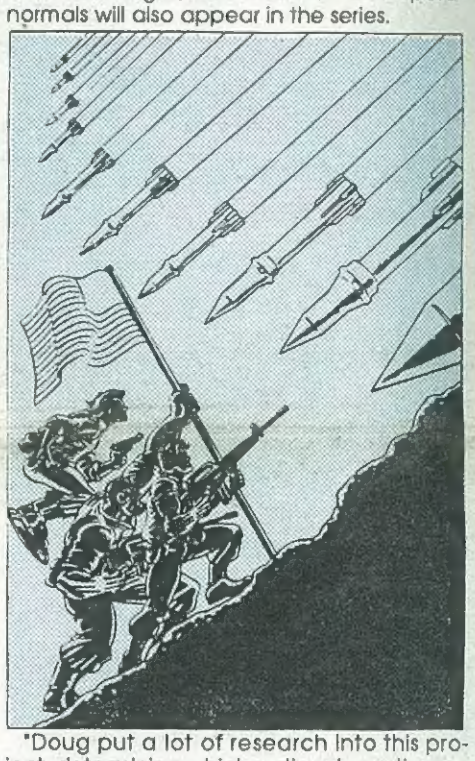
Since the events that led to ***The Pitt***, things have been going downhill for the inhabitants of the New Universe. If you think it's been bad so far, though, wait until you see what's in store for that grim world in the upcoming New Universe bookshelf-format limited series ***The War***, set to debut on February 16th.

The War will bring to a head the events that have been threatening the world of the New Universe. The series will be written by Doug Murray, whose abilities to write war stories have been proven with ***The Nam***; joining him as artist on the series will be Tom Morgan.

"The United States has been investigating the 'Black Event' (the destruction of Pittsburgh) for months," New Universe editor Howard Mackie said. "All the while, the Armed Forces have been preparing for the inevitable--World War III."

The weapons brought into play in preparation for ***The War*** are paranormals, who have already been drafted by the armed services and sent to special training centers; these events were presented in the prior bookshelf format New Universe title ***The Draft***.

The Army begins to suspect that the Pitt was the work of nuclear terrorists, and they prepare a group of paranormals, led by Jack Magniconte, who will make the final determination. Joining Magniconte are Pittbull, Blur, Metallurgist, and Gridlock. Other paranormals will also appear in the series.



"Doug put a lot of research into this project, determining which nations have the capability of nuclear terrorism," Mackie said. "He also targeted real-world political scenarios that would work within the New Universe as well."

At the same time the paranormal group is on its way to Africa, Nightmask is busy back in our own country--or its New Universe equivalent--chasing Harlan Mook, better known as Blowout. Mook has already attempted to assassinate the President, and is now a wanted terrorist.

"Before the end of ***The War***, all of the paranormals will become pawns in a vast and deadly political game," Mackie said. And the rules of this game quickly change, until each nation feels the necessity of using its full nuclear arsenal in a War to End All Wars.

Each 48-page issue of ***The War*** will be priced at $3.50; the series will appear on a monthly basis following its mid-February debut.

Award-Winning *Concrete* reveals colorful past and present

by Anthony White

Paul Chadwick, the creator/writer/artist of ***Concrete***, has had a very good year in 1988. He swept the Eisner Awards, he swept the Kurtzman Awards, and now he's set to sweep the color comics fans off their feet.

In early December, Dark Horse Comics will release the ***Concrete Color Special***, a 40-page, $2.95 full color comic that will feature an all-new 24-page Concrete story, plus color reprints of the first two Concrete stories, originally published in ***Dark Horse Presents #1*** and #2.

The lead story will bring Concrete and his friends Larry Munro and Maureen Vonnegut to New England, where they quickly become entangled in an adventure of near-Lovecraftian weirdness. According to Chadwick, this story is "by far the most unusual Concrete ever." That's quite a statement for a comic that has prided itself in its unusual, intelligent storylines and strong characterization.

In addition to painting a wrap-around cover for the comic, Chadwick will be airbrushing and painting the first part of the story; the rest of the book will be done in traditional four-color comic book style.

As it turns out, the timing of the release of the ***Concrete Color Special*** is perfect to bring Concrete to a growing audience; the book will appear just weeks after the December issue of ***Playboy*** will offer a Harlan Ellison article about comics. In the article, Ellison speaks very highly of ***Concrete***, and recommends that interested readers look for the book in comics shops--just like the shop where you got this issue of ***CSN***.

Dark Horse publisher Mike Richardson thinks the ***Playboy*** article will cause a lot of interest in Concrete--and the ***Concrete Color Special*** will in turn hook a lot of new readers on this book. "Playboy has a paid circulation of nearly three and a half million copies. If only 2% of Playboy's readers decide to check out an issue of ***Concrete***, that's 68,000 copies..."

Richardson said that due to the interest in ***Concrete***--and what he feels confident will be a rapidly-growing audience--Dark Horse already has plans to reprint the early out-of-print issues. Dark Horse has recently released a multi-comic pack offering a number of back issues of ***Concrete*** at a special price.

Critical response to ***Concrete*** has been incredibly good. The book received 24 award nominations this summer and won "Best New Series" in both the Kurtzman and the Eisner Awards. In addition, the book won "Best Continuing Series" and "Best Black and White Series" Eisner Awards and Paul Chadwick received the Harvey Award for "Best Cartoonist."

NEWSBRIEFS

BATMAN DEATH IN THE FAMILY TPB RUSHED ONTO DECEMBER SCHEDULE

The incredibly popular ***Death in the Family*** storyline, which has already resulted in sell-outs across the country for ***Batman #428,*** will be collected into a trade paperback tentatively slated for December 8th release. The new trade paperback will contain the entire four-issue ***Death in the Family*** storyline, printed on Mando paper, square-bound with a heavy-stock, all-new cover. The package will be priced at $3.95, which is 55 cents less than the cover price of the four comics that comprise the storyline.

DC was convinced the offer the rush-reprinting after the incredible amount of publicity devoted to the comics, which were no longer available in most comics shops or newsstands across the country. Virtually every major news medium picked up the death of Robin story and publicized the comics; unfortunately, copies of the books were no longer available and back issue prices escalated rapidly. Currently, prices as high as $40 are being quoted on ***Batman#428,*** with confirmed sales at $25. For those who aren't as concerned with the collectibility of the original issues but just want an inexpensive reading copy, the ***Death in the Family*** tpb is the perfect package.

WEB #50 REVEALS A NEW FACET OF SPIDEY

Spider-Man has been accused of a lot of things during his career, but not too many people have called him a jewel thief--at least, not until ***Web of Spider-Man #50,*** on sale January 5th. In this double-sized $1.50 anniversary issue, a lot of Spidey's supporting cast shows up to help prove that he's innocent of the accusation; among those dropping in are Prowler, Puma, Rocket Racer, Sandman, Silver Sable, and Will-O'-The-Wisp. **Gerry Conway, Alex Saviuk, and Keith Williams** team up to bring you this extra-length gem of a story.

NORTHSTAR GUIDES THE WAY

Northstar is a new, brutal comic from the same people who produce ***Faust.*** Northstar Publishing will be presenting this anthology book in December, featuring three stories for $2. The lead feature in ***Northstar*** is Ravage, a hero who is good at only one thing: killing. The story is written by **Mort Castle** and illustrated by **Tim Vigil.**

The book will include two other features. First is a comics adaptation of Mort Castle's horror story "And of Gideon," illustrated by **Dennis Fincke and Fred Gartner.** It's a story of a psychotic mercy killer's experiences as a child, in Vietnam, and in a post-apocalyptic setting. The final feature is "Dark Daze," the story of a boy who hold the key to the wonders of the universe; "Dark Daze" is written and drawn by **Mark Bernal.**

MY, MY, MAI GOES GRAPHIC NOVEL

Mai the Psychic Girl, released in standard comics format from Eclipse from 1986 to 1988, will be collected into four large graphic novels in the first part of 1989. The new ***Mai*** graphic novels, each containing as many as 300 pages of material, will be released by Viz, the company that worked with Eclipse to get the books into initial American release.

THE SENSES-SHATTERING
SHADOW
BY HELFER AND BAKER
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BODY AND SOUL
PART 5
SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS
THIS IS IT! IF YOU BUY ONE ISSUE THIS MONTH,

DC CASTS A BIG SHADOW

DC has announced plans for a February release of a ***Shadow*** hardcover featuring five **Denny O'Neil/Mike Kaluta *Shadow*** stories from the early 1970's. In addition, the 128-page hardcover will feature an extra 15-page Kaluta story. The new book will be totally recolored for its publication in a more upscale format.

EISNER BOOKS BACK IN PRINT

Will Eisner's ***New York: The Big City*** and ***The Dreamer*** have proven quite popular. The two books were so popular, in fact, that they've been out of print for a little while. Kitchen Sink is correcting that problem in January, though, when ***New York*** gets a fourth printing and ***The Dreamer,*** a *roman a clef* story of the early days of comics, goes back for a second printing.

BLACK TERROR DEBUTS IN TOTAL ECLIPSE

Total Eclipse #3, on sale in early December, will feature the return of The Black Terror, a golden age hero slated to return in 1989 in his own comic. Last spring, ***CSN*** told you about the Black Terror and his alternate-reality world of criminals and government corruption. Now readers will have a chance to see the hero in action prior to his 1989 series debut.

The new ***Black Terror*** series will be written by **Chuck Dixon and Beau Smith** and illustrated by **Dan Brereton,** who did the character designs for ***Total Eclipse.*** "Dan has the right mood for ***The Black Terror,***" Beau Smith of Eclipse said. "He captures that dirt and brutal glamour that the storylines dictate." Look for the first issue of ***Black Terror*** in the summer of 1989.

HULK MEETS SOME REALLY INCREDIBLE GUYS...

If you're gray and the strongest guy on Earth, you probably figure you're about as strange as they get--but Hulk meets some pretty strange fellows in ***Incredible Hulk #355,*** on sale January 19th. In this story, Glorion works his magic on the Hulk, leading to dream-induced visions of the Thing and Dr. Strange, along with cameo appearances by such unbelievable creatures as Freddy Krueger, PeeWee Herman, Gene Siskel, and Roger Ebert. **Peter David and Jeff Purves** are the guys to thank for this offbeat Hulk tale--but then again, aren't they all pretty offbeat nowadays--and isn't it great?...

SWAMP ANGEL PLANNED FOR 1989 RELEASE

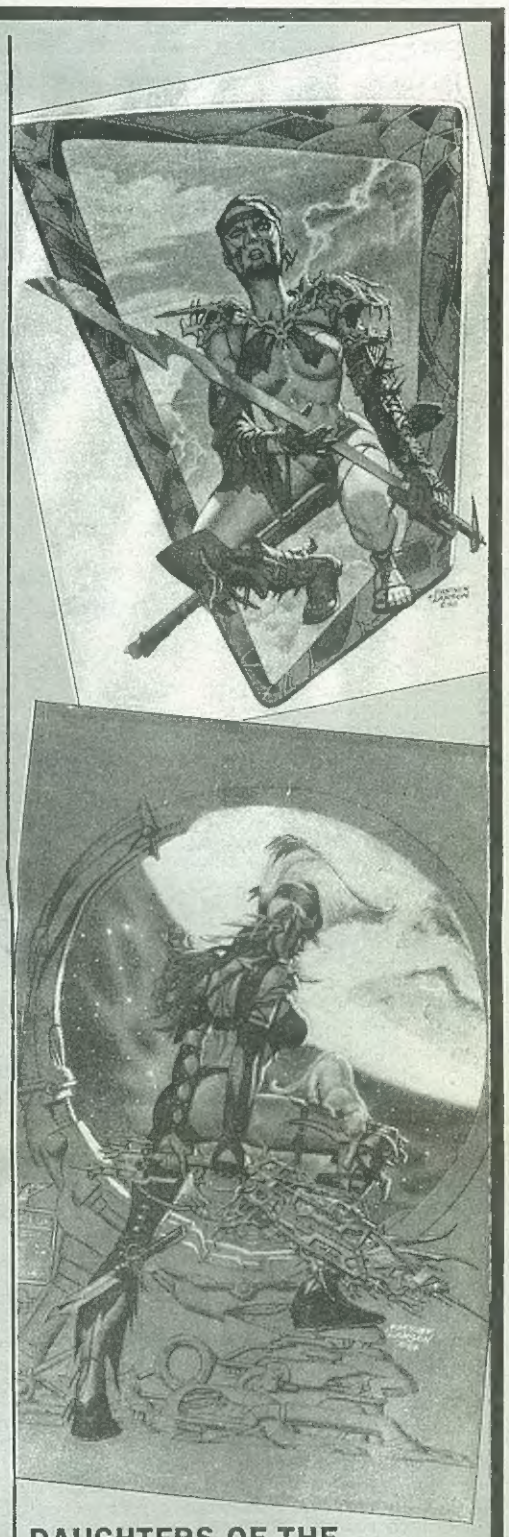
Last summer, ***CSN*** told readers about an upcoming Mike Grell historical series, but very little information was available at that time. Now, DC has given the project a title--***Swamp Angel***--and a format--Prestige.

The Swamp Angel series will run three issues in the prestige format, and will be a historical adventure chronicling the lives of one American settler family over the generations. No release date has been scheduled yet. Grell will be both writing and drawing the new series.

TOP-NAME ARTISTS SIGN ON TO FISH SCHTICKS JUST FOR THE HALIBUT

Fish Schticks, the back-up feature found in each issue of ***Fish Police,*** has managed to draw quite a group of comics talents to illustrate its stories in the next few months. ***Fish Police #15*** will feature a **Ken Mitcheroney** Fish Schticks story; **Matt Howarth** will be illustrating the feature in ***Fish Police #16;*** **Arthur Adams,** fan-favorite best known for ***Longshot,*** will be handling the art honors on the story in ***Fish Police #17;*** and **Eric Schanower,** the praised Oz artist, will be the Fish Schticks illustrator in ***Fish Police #18.***

"We are certain that the Fish Police will remain at the top of everyone's must-read list," Bob Schreck of Comico said. "Any and all new readers urged on by Harlan Ellison's article in ***Playboy*** (which praised ***Fish Police*** most highly) will find the series a welcome addition to their reading list and will have no problem fitting it into their bimonthly entertainment budget."



DAUGHTERS OF THE DISK TAKE A SPIN AT SQP

Daughters of the Disk is the title of a new 7 plate portfolio by the team of **Rich Larson and Steve Fastner.** The plates feature the four characters who are known as The Daughters of the Disk: a ruler, a war criminal, a philosopher, and a mercenary, united the destroy an evil god. The portfolio serves as an introduction to a new barbarienne/sf series by Larson and Fastner. All seven plates feature airbrushed B&W artwork; the portfolio is packaged in a clear plastic collector's case.

MICRA DELAYED

MICRA has been delayed until 1989, according to creator/writer **Lamar Waldron.** Apple Comics had initially planned to release the next issue of ***MICRA*** right away, picking up where Comics Interview left off. When it became obvious that there would be a long delay between that formerly-Comics-Interview-Press issue and the next issue, though, Mike Catron and Lamar Waldron decided to hold off the release of ***MICRA #8*** so that once the series starts from Apple, it will continue on schedule. Look for the next issue in February or March.

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NEWSBRIEFS

SHAZAM! CHARGES INTO 1989 DC SCHEDULE

Shazam!, the comics series starring Captain Marvel, will be returning to the comics racks in 1989. ***Shazam!*** has been featured as a limited series last year and as a showcase strip in ***Action Comics Weekly***; now **Roy and Dann Thomas and Todd Smith** will bring the classic hero (in his updated form) to the comics racks on a regular basis. ***CSN*** will bring you more information as soon as it is available.

FRANKENSTEIN UNBOUND IN NEW SERIES

Frankenstein is perhaps the archetypal story of man's struggle to conquer the realm of death; the Mary Shelley novel has inspired dozens of comics adaptations, but few have attempted to be as faithful to the original series as the Eternity adaptation will be.

Martin Powell and **Patrick Oliffe** will work together to adapt the novel into a series of comics; the first issue will tell the story of the confrontation between the monster and Dr. Frankenstein on the Arctic ice, and it will focus on the origins of the monster.

Frankenstein #1 will reach comics shops in January; the 32 page black and white comic will be priced at $1.95.

YEATES BRINGS KRENKEL WORK TO COMICS FANS

Tom Yeates, editor of the upcoming ***Roy Krenkel: Swordsmen and Saurians from the Mesozoic to Barsoom***, has put quite a bit of time into preparing this 10" x 13" coffee table art book featuring work from one of the most praised illustrators of the fantasy field. The entire project was put on hold after Krenkel's death in the early 1980's; Yeates finally reached an agreement to have Eclipse release the book in December.

"I was working to do a thorough and comprehensive retrospective on Roy's career," Yeates said, "and it was while putting it together that I came across the Swordsmen and Saurians book. It was ninety percent done, and I've had a great time putting together the final ten percent. Considering the difficulty of laying out oftentimes small sketches onto the 10" by 13" format, the layouts Roy did were superb."

"The art is mostly previously unpublished masterful drawings of dinosaurs, barbarians, Edgar Rice Burroughs themes, sabre tooth cats, and science fiction scenes," Yeates said. "Many people are familiar with Krenkel's work, but these drawings represent the extra-special pieces which he saved for this book specifically. The book also features a wonderful foreword by fellow saurian illustrator **Bill Stout**." Krenkel was an influential artist whose work inspired such creators as Mike Kaluta, Jeff Jones, Berni Wrightson, Scott and Bo Hampton, and even great fantasy illustrator **Frank Frazetta**. The $19.95, 152-page trade paperback is due out in December; the hardcover and numbered limited edition hardcover (which will include an original sketch by Krenkel) will be released in 1989.

LAST AMERICAN SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY

The Last American, the Epic title originally announced for late summer or early fall and then postponed, has been rescheduled for late January of 1989. The comic, which features the story of an American soldier, Captain Ulysses S. Pilgrim, kept "in storage" and brought back to help save his country after the nuclear winter has passed, with the help of robots Able, Baker, and Charlie. "He has the full authority of the President to restore the former American glory, and to take revenge on the culprits responsible for the war, said series co-writer **Alan Grant**. "Since it is unlikely that there will be any survivors, the series shows a serious side of nuclear war, a side that is not often explored." Joining Grant on the book will be co-writer **John Wagner** and artist **Mike McMahon**.

CONCRETE CONQUERS LAND AND SEA

Dark Horse is doing as much as they can to make it easy for comics fans who missed out on the early issues of ***Concrete*** to find out what they've missed. First there was the Concrete Color Special, which reprinted his original appearances in the early issues of ***Dark Horse Presents***; now, in January 1989, Dark Horse will offer ***Concrete: Land and Sea #1***, which will reprint ***Concrete*** #s 1 and 2 in one 64-page $2.95 package. Creator Paul Chadwick will do a new cover for the issue, and will also offer additional sketchbook material detailing the development of the character. Remember, this is the series that swept last summer's comics awards--give it a try and see why!

SECRET ORIGINS FANS WILL QUIVER WITH EXCITEMENT...

Secret Origins #38 may well be one of the most eagerly awaited issues of this popular title since the JLI miniseries-within-a-series storylines; ***SO #38***, which is scheduled to hit comics shops on January 26th, will present the origins of Green Arrow and Speedy in two separate stories. Green Arrow' origin will be recapped by ***Green Arrow*** writer **Mike Grell**, who will be joined by ***Grendel*** artist **Hannibal King**. The second story will tell the background of Green Arrow's former sidekick, Speedy; **Elliot Maggin and John Koch** will bring fans that story.

WARLOCKS SPECIAL EDITION OFFERS NEW PAGES

Warlocks, the popular **Barry Blair** Aircel title, will have a ***Special Edition Warlocks #1*** added to the schedule in January '89. This ***Special Edition*** will reprint the first issue of ***Warlocks***, which many fans have been looking for; it will also offer eight additional pages of new story and art, meaning that fans who got the first issue might still want to take a look at the reprinting.

Because of the extra pages, the reprint will be priced at $2.25.

MANGAZINE FINDS NEW LIFE

Mangazine was the comic that introduced most fans to the work of **Ben Dunn** a few years ago; after a great deal of initial popularity, the comic went on hiatus during the black-and-white comics glut at the end of 1986. Now ***Mangazine*** is returning with a giant 80-page first issue to kick off the new run. Antarctic Press, the publisher of ***Mangazine***, will offer the extra-thick comic for $3; in addition to a cover and a story, "Messerchmitt," by Ben Dunn, the issue will also contain "Mighty Tiny" by **Patten and Gibson** and "Mechamen" by **Paul Roche**, plus other unannounced contents. Look for it in January 1989.

HERE'S THE DATA ON DATA 6

Artists Unlimited is a new company in the comics field; their first book will debut in early 1989. ***Data 6 #1*** is the beginning of a four-issue limited series about a computer-linked superteam, Data 6. The team has been told that their mentor has been murdered, but they're not convinced--and they have their own ideas about her whereabouts. The 32-page comic will be priced at $1.95.

OMAHA 11 DELAYED DUE TO ILLNESS

Omaha fans have been anxious about the missing ***Omaha #11***; the book is scheduled to appear in the near future, so you haven't missed it. Over the summer, **Reed Waller and Kate Worley** were involved in a hit-and-run automobile accident which left Kate injured; the extended recovery period has caused the book to be late, according to Dennis Kitchen. The Omaha Picture Disk, featuring music by Kate, Reed, and the Shakers, will not be late, though, so you can look for it very soon now.

SUPERMAN FACES A BARE-BONES STORYLINE

If you found yourself faced with a deserted planet, an empty city, and a pile of ground bones, you'd probably be unnerved, right? Well, in that regard, Superman is no different than you; that's exactly what he discovers in a two-part story that begins in ***Superman #29***, on sale January 26th, and concludes in ***Adventures of Superman #452***, on sale February 2nd. How does this eerie sight tie in with the reappearance of The Word Bringer from ***Adventures of Superman Annual #1***? That's the question that writer-artist **Dan Jurgens** will answer in this two-part storyline. Joining guest-creator Jurgens will be inker **Brett Breeding** on ***Superman #29*** and **Dennis Janke** on ***Adventures of Superman #452***.

A HARD RAIN'S GONNA FALL

"Yellow Rain," the crazy CIA operative first introduced to comics readers in ***Vietnam Journal #4***, will have a return engagement in the pages of **Don Lomax**'s compelling ***Vietnam Journal #10***, on sale in January 1989. The story, "The Plain of Reeds," will deal with a Navy SEAL unit assigned to find and rescue South vietnamese soldiers being held prisoner deep inside enemy territory in the Mekong River Delta; the book will also include the regular features "Back in the World," a look at what was going on in the rest of the world at the time of the story, and "Missing American, a profile of an MIA.

GALLOPING GALOOPER TAKES A RUN AT VIPER IN FLARE

Flare #4 brings back the Galloping Galooper, described by Hero Comics as "the costumed hero everyone loves to hate." In a 26-page feature story by **Dennis Mallonee, Vince Waller, and Mark Beachum**, Flare and the Galooper do battle against VIPER--but the Viper decides it's time to bring out the big guns when their actions begin to cause the crime-lord of Los Angeles some problems. The comic will also feature a 16-page backup feature by Mallonee, **Howard Simpson, and Willie Blyberg**. Look for the 52-page full color ***Flare #4*** in December.

ARK SETS SAIL FOR WYOMING TERRITORY

Westerns have gone through phases of popularity in the comics field, just as in television and films. For the past few years, though, there have been almost no new Westerns produced in comics form. ARK is convinced that there's an audience for this classic American genre, though, and they hope to give that audience what they're looking for with ***Wyoming Territory***, available in January 1989.

Scott Kuntz, the publisher of Ark Comics, isn't a newcomer to comics. He has worked on the art staff of Alan Kurzrok previously; Kurzrok has done work for Marvel, Harvey, and Cracked in the past. In 1988, he decided to go independent and publish his own comic; Wyoming Territory is ARK's first book.

"In a market dominated by mutants, ninjas, and costumed super-heroes, ***Wyoming Territory*** is the only bi-monthly original Western series currently published in America," John Jenkins of ARK said. "However, in contrast to Westerns of the past, ***Wyoming Territory*** embraces themes and characterizations that are reflections of contemporary concerns and not simply a repackaging of stale cliches." Kuntz is illustrating the book in a strong brush-ink style and is using duotone shading to give the book extra depth and dimension for its black-and-white publication.

Wyoming Territory is the story of a protagonist who finds everything important in his life taken away from him. With nothing else to lean on, he has to become self-sufficient quickly--if he wants to stay alive. Each issue of ***Wyoming Territory*** will offer 31 pages of story in a 32-page black and white comic with fully painted color covers, priced at $1.95.

EL DIABLO HORNS IN ON CRIME

1989 will bring a new DC superhero onto the scene when ***El Diablo*** goes into action in San Antonio, TX--and his own comic title. The new hero will be a "down-to-earth" hero, according to DC in their presentation at the Frankfurt Book Fair; teaming up to present El Diablo's battles against Texas crime and drug trafficking will be **Gerard Jones, Mike Paroback**, and **John Nyberg**.

DECEMBER HOT PICKS!

Hot Picks Checklist For December

- ✔*Action Comics Weekly 635*
- ✔*Adventures of Superman 450*
- ✔*Airboy 46*
- ✔*Asgardian Wars TPB*
- ✔*Batman: A Death In The Family TPB*
- ✔*Black Orchid 2*
- ✔*Catwoman 1*
- ✔*Cerebus Reprints 1, 2, 3*
- ✔*Cosmic Odyssey 4*
- ✔*Dirty Pair 1*
- ✔*Epic Silver Surfer HC*
- ✔*Gammarauders 1*
- ✔*Greatest Joker Stories Ever Told HC*
- ✔*Grendel 26*
- ✔*Gumby's Winter Fun Special 1*
- ✔*Havok & Wolverine: Meltdown 2*
- ✔*Invasion! 3*
- ✔*Marvel Fanfare 43*
- ✔*Maxwell the Magic Cat Boxed Set*
- ✔*MAZE Agency 1*
- ✔*Next Nexus 4*
- ✔*Outlanders 1*
- ✔*Pineapple Army 1, 2*
- ✔*Punisher 18*
- ✔*Robotech: Sentinels 2*
- ✔*Rust 2*
- ✔*Sandman 1*
- ✔*Stray Toasters 3*
- ✔*Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 1*
- ✔*Terminator 6, 7*
- ✔*V for Vendetta 8*
- ✔*Xanadu v.ii 1*

by Cliff Biggers

Tis the season to be jolly--and with Christmas approaching, you're probably having to allot every spare buck you have for gift-shopping, right? Well, the bad news is that the comics companies have no sympathy for your budget whatsoever, so they're giving you heaping helpings of top-notch comics reading that's going to keep you digging into your wallet for just one more buck or two. The good news, though, is that you'll be getting some very entertaining--and certainly very, very popular--comics for your money. And what better way to warm up the December chill than with hot funny books?

Action Comics Weekly #635 breaks the winter ice--and the ACW format--with a crossover story by Mark Verheiden, Eduardo Barreto, and John Nyberg. If you want a little hint as to why this is a book you'd better grab quickly, here it is: new Blackhawks. Not new stories of the old Blackhawks, mind you, but new Blackhawks, an updated 1988-89 version of the team that has been an ***ACW*** mainstay. This 29-page story will also feature Superman, Green Lantern, and Black Canary. Oh, don't consider this an order to buy the book--but if an updated Blackhawk series ends up on DC's schedule later on and you can't find this issue for love or money, remember who told you first...

Superman has gone through some major changes recently, and all this turmoil boils over in ***Adventures of Superman #450;*** this is the issue that reveals the secret identity of the Gangbuster (and do you have *your* theory yet?), and ends up with Superman putting himself in exile from Earth. Major events indeed--and that makes this an issue that Superman fans will definitely consider a must-have.

Airboy's Diary begins in ***Airboy #46,*** and this is a great place to get a first-class seat on the next Airboy flight. Chuck Dixon and Ernie Colon have made a real effort to prepare a-top-notch four-parter that everyone, Airboy reader or not, can enjoy. This will also serve as a superb four-issue lead-in for the upcoming prestige-format ***Airboy #50*** by the Kubert Clan, so don't miss it.

If you made up a list of the sizzling artists of the 1980's, you'd have to put both Art Adams and Paul Smith near the top; naturally, a trade paperback reprinting some superb work by both of them would be a can't-miss book for art fans. If that trade paperback also presented the X-Men, the New Mutants, and Alpha Flight, it's be even more desirable, right? Well, that's why you aren't going to find copies of the ***Asgardian Wars*** trade paperback sitting around for very long--so grab it while the grabbing is good.

Robin's dead--and the whole world seems to be committing mayhem trying to find the comics in which it happened. High prices, short supply, heavy demand--if you weren't wise enough to latch on to the Death in the Family storyline from the beginning, you're probably pretty frustrated by all of this. DC's watching out for you, though: this month, they're rush-releasing a trade paperback reprinting the entire four-issue ***Death in the Family*** storyline in one giant book with a new cover for an incredible $3.95--over four bits less than the cover price of the original issues! What a Christmas present, eh?

Black Orchid #1 was a little late, but it was certainly worth waiting on, right? Well, now that everyone's seen just how good Gaiman and McKean are, you can rest assured that they won't dare miss ***Black Orchid #2*** this month. Remember, Batman, Luthor, and Swamp Thing all play major roles in this storyline--and who can ask for better supporting characters than that?

Speaking of Batman and supporting characters, you can rest assured that Batman: Year One fans will want to check out the limited series featuring Batman's infamous supporting villainess ***The Catwoman.*** This series will present Selina Kyle's background and early history--and as the events in Year One reveal, you don't know *anything* about Catwoman any more.

Cerebus has one of the most loyal and constant followings in comics. Many readers haven't gotten on the ***Cerebus*** bandwagon, though, because they know there's no way they can afford Dave Sim's early tales of the aardvark. Dave Sim is making it possible for everyone to afford those hard-to-find (and super-expensive) early issues beginning this month, though; this is when he begins reprinting the entire ***Cerebus*** run in facsimile editions. While the covers have been attractively designed to make it obvious this is a reprint series, the interiors are republished exactly as they appeared (other than advertising changes). Even better, they're almost as cheap now as the originals were when they were released a decade ago!

Cosmic Odyssey #4 finally arrives this month, and you can be sure it's worth waiting for. This Starlin/Mignola epic wraps up the Anti-Life Equation storyline and paves the way for the new New Gods series that begins in January. Double reason to latch on to a copy quickly, we'd say.

Dirty Pair is a book that will appeal to manga-translation fans because it features comics exploits of the fan-favorite Dirty Pair, a female adventurer team. This one isn't a manga translation, though; instead, it's an original series published for manga fans by Eclipse. Along with ***Lone Wolf and Cub*** and ***Lum,*** this series is one of the most popular Japanese series with American fans--so look for this one to disappear quicker than presents under the tree on Christmas morning!

Alright, we gave you fair warning about the Stan Lee-Moebius ***Silver Surfer*** series over the summer, didn't we? Well, we're giving you fair warning again: the hardcover that collects those two issues (along with new pages and behind-the-scenes information) is going to sell out just as quickly as the series did. If you want a handsome, permanent edition of this memorable series, haunt your local comics shop the day the shipment comes in--this is the kind of event they won't stage again any time soon.

Dragonlance has remained a scorcher of a book for DC. ***Advanced Dungeons and Dragons*** burned its way off the racks. Break out the oven mitts in December, because ***Gammarauders #1*** will reach the comics shops this month, and it should appeal to every gaming-and-comics fan who grabbed the other two titles.

Pull your copy of the November ***CSN*** Hot Picks. See that page where we told you about the ***Greatest Batman Stories Ever Told***? Everything we said also applies to ***The Greatest Joker Stories Ever Told***--and even moreso, since every story features a classic confrontation between Batman and his nemesis. This one won't be reprinted for at least a year--and once that Batman movie comes out, you'll be glad you have it.

We've been saying that the new ***Grendel*** series featuring Matt Wagner stories illustrated by Jay Geldhof and John K Snyder was going to bring back a lot of ***Grendel*** fans who had taken leave of the book. Obviously it's doing just that--and it's drawing in a large number of new readers as well, judging by sales. It may be hard to find, but it's worth checking out--you'll hate yourself for missing it.

Gumby and Pokey meet Santa. Gumby and Pokey go to heck. What more could a Gumby fan want? It's all available in ***Gumby's Winter Fun Special #1,*** by Steve Purcell and Art Adams.

You've already seen ***Havok and Wolverine: Meltdown #1,*** so you know just how stunning a comic it is. Well, not only

does ***Havok and Wolverine: Meltdown #2*** look just as good, but the storyline kicks into gear with the second issue, and Wolverine fans will be very pleased with the results. Comics shops are stocking up on this book to try to meet the demand--but odds are the demand is even stronger than they anticipated!

Okay, so ***Invasion!*** is running a little bit late--that doesn't stop it from being one of the most eventful DC limited series since ***Crisis on Infinite Earths,*** does it? If you want to know what's going on in the DC Universe nowadays, you really need to keep an eye out for ***Invasion! #3***--it'll prove worth the wait.

What a bargain! ***Justice League International #24*** presents not one, not two, but three stories--and one of them features Kevin Maguire's final work as regular JLI artist! Not only that, but the stars of next year's hit Justice League Europe will be featured in a new introductory story. Finally, Maxwell Lord stars in a story all his own. What a bargain for $1.50!

Marvel Comics #18 has a surprise inclusion: John Byrne's first She-Hulk story will appear in this issue. This is Marvel's way of helping you survive the period between Christmas and

DECEMBER HOT PICKS!

Cover to *Asgardian Wars TPB*

New Years, when fewer than usual numbers of comics will be released. You can be sure that thousands of ***CSN*** readers are going to take advantage of the gesture and latch on to this premiere She-Hulk story. Maybe you should be one of them...

Marvel Fanfare #43 features more Mike Mignola artwork. Since Mignola is quickly becoming a fan favorite for the 80's, you really should take a look at this issue. Art fans will be doubly pleased with P. Craig Russell's superb inks on this Sub-Mariner pirate story.

Maxwell the Magic Cat is an offbeat, entertaining strip written and drawn by Alan Moore; since its availability in America has been rather limited, Eclipse collected the strip into four trade paperback volumes each priced at $5. As a special holiday offering, Eclipse has packaged all four books into one slipcased set for only $15--a 25% savings. Eclipse warns that supplies of the set will be limited, so don't wait long on this opportunity to see a totally different facet of Moore's creative muse.

Mystery comics are all too rare, and with so very many comics fans also being mystery fans, that's odd. Every mystery fan who reads comics will want to search out Mike Barr's ***MAZE Agency #1***, though; this is not only a solid comic adventure, it's also a well-crafted mystery story. This sort of thing is so rarely done well in comics that when it is, you can be sure that everyone who looks for more than superhero adventure in comics will latch onto it.

Next Nexus #4 brings the sterling mini-series to an end, and what an end it is; everyone has reported sizzling sales on this series (and increased interest in Nexus in general), so make a concerted effort to get your hands on the finale while you still can.

Outlanders is a new manga translation series that marks Dark Horse's new entry in the ongoing manga-translation field (of course, they have already offered the Godzilla manga translation, but that was only a limited series). A strong sf storyline and solid artwork will make this one move off the shelves pretty quickly.

The real manga translation gem of the month, though, is ***Pineapple Army*** #1 and #2 from Viz. This is the most refreshing manga added to American comics racks in quite a while; this book abandons the sf/post-apocalypse/robot/samurai motifs so common with manga translations, and offers instead a refreshing action-adventure tale focusing on a Vietnam Vet turned security advisor/trainer. Believe me, you haven't read a manga like this before--but once you try it, you'll want to continue reading ***Pineapple Army*** for the duration.

In a brutal finale to a four-issue storyline, the Punisher goes after the Kingpin in ***Punisher #18***--and this is the sort of no-holds-barred action that Punisher fans thrive on. Not only will Punisher fans want to see what happens when these two go head-to-head, but Daredevil and Spider-Man fans who have come to know the Kingpin might want to take a look as well!

Didn't we warn you that ***Robotech II: The Sentinels #1*** was going disappear pretty quickly from the shelves? Well, you can expect ***Robotech: Sentinels #2*** to pull an equally swift vanishing act as people become aware that this series offers quality storytelling and some of the best Robotech art they've seen in quite a while.

Rust #2 continues to present Vince Locke's fully painted storyline--and judging from fan reaction to the first issue, this new direction is just what the series needed!

Sandman #1 is one of the best DC debuts in quite a while; the storyline by Neil Gaiman is complex and intriguing, and the Kieth/Dringenberg artwork conveys the mood quite well. I suspect that this might be the most successful non-prestige first issue for DC this year.

Stray Toasters #3 continues the convoluted and enigmatic Bill Sienkiewicz storyline that has hooked so many readers since the first issue. Sienkiewicz proves his strong ability as a writer here, making him a comics triple-threat: line art, painted color, and writing. This series has been a rousing success with older fans and those who like to have to *think* while they're reading. You can be sure that no one who's popped in on ***Stray Toasters*** for the first two issues will drop off until the series is over.

Archie Comics has a new ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #1*** on its schedule for December. Surely we don't even have to say any more, do we?

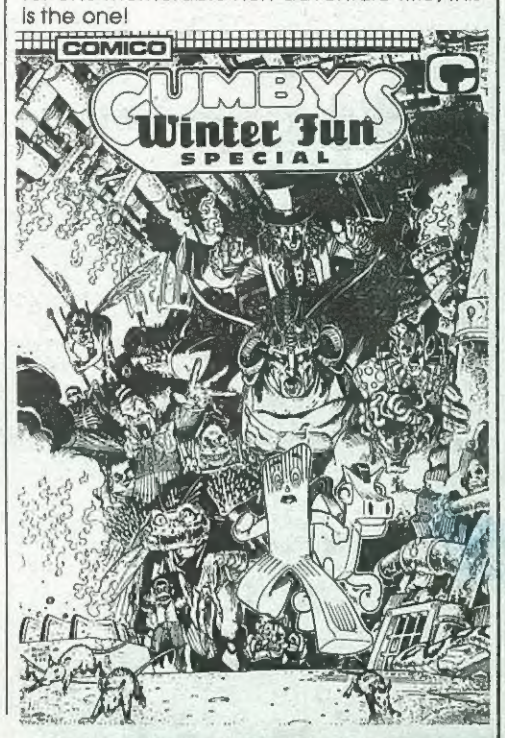
Terminator has been a wonder for NOW; the book has been a top seller since the first issue, and sales are climbing, not falling off! Every issue seems to get hotter than the issue before--and with ***Terminator #6*** due out at the beginning of the month and ***Terminator #7*** due out at the end of the month, it's quite a December for Terminator fans!

V for Vendetta has been a solid success for DC for the first seven issues--but with ***V for Vendetta #8*** presenting all-new material, look for new readers to line up to find out just what happens at the end of this bleak saga. Even if you've read the original ***Warrior*** installments, you haven't read these last three issues--so don't miss them!

Xanadu was quite a success this past summer for Thoughts and Images; now ***Xanadu*** has found a new publisher (Eclipse) and begins again with an all-new first issue. The broader Eclipse distribution should make this delightful anthropomorphic comic even hotter than its previous incarnation, so don't get left out!

Overlooked Gem of the Month

Kafka's The Execution and Other Stories, available this month from Fantagraphics, is a book that might get overlooked on the chock-full comics racks this December, but it certainly shouldn't; not only are Kafka's sometimes-bizarre existentialist stories superb reading sure to appeal to comics fans, but Leopoldo Duranona's artwork is remarkably moody and evocative. If you want to make room in your comics-budget for one memorable non-adventure title, this is the one!



SHE'LL TRY ANYTHING...TWICE.
SCIMIDAR
R.A. JONES • ROB DAVIS • JAMES BALDWIN
From ETERNITY

UPCOMING COMICS QUICKLIST

The Upcoming Comics listing of scheduled titles and the dates that they should arrive in comics shops across the country. That doesn't mean that the books will always be in your shop on the date listed: some publishers ship from different parts of the country, and the farther away the publisher is from your local comic shop, the longer it will take the books to get to you. Publishers are sometimes forced to reschedule titles, and that might result in some date changes on some releases.

Each entry presents the title and number of the book, followed by the release date; if a title doesn't have a scheduled release date (some publishers merely say that their books will ship in October without giving a date), we don't give you a date. After that is the Publisher of the comic and the price. If a book you're looking for is on the index and doesn't arrive in a week or two after the date, be sure to ask the friendly folks at your comics shop; they may be able to update you on schedule changes that have affected that book.

Hang on to this list! It presents the titles that are supposed to ship during the next three weeks. The first ***CSN*** each month lists every title scheduled to ship to ship that month.

❑ ***Aces 6*** 12/29 Eclipse $2.95
❑ ***Action Comics Weekly 636*** 12/8 DC $1.50
❑ ***Action Comics Weekly 637*** 12/15 DC $1.50
❑ ***Action Comics Weekly 638*** 12/22 DC $1.50
The Phantom Lady is Back!
❑ ***Advanced Dungeons and Dragons 2*** 12/8 DC $1.25
Based on TSR Gaming system
❑ ***Airboy 46*** 12/15 Eclipse $1.95
Airboy's Diary begins– CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Akira 5*** 12/15 Marvel $2.95
❑ ***Alf 14*** 12/15 Marvel $1
❑ ***Alien Legion 9*** 12/29 Marvel $1.50
❑ ***Alpha Flight 69*** 12/15 Marvel $1.50
❑ ***Amazing Spider-man 314*** 12/15 Marvel $1
Peter and Mary Jane are evicted and move in with Aunt May
❑ ***American Flagg 12*** 12/22 First $1.95
❑ ***Appleseed 3*** 12/8 Eclipse $2.50
❑ ***Art of John Bolton TPB*** 12/15 Eclipse $15.95
Special look at Bolton's art, with a long focus on Someplace Strange
❑ ***Asgardian Wars TPB*** 12/8 Marvel $14.95
Reprinting the entire storyline by Claremont, Smith, and Adams–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Avengers 302*** 12/22 Marvel $1
Quasar's back–and the Super-Nova makes an appearance, too
❑ ***Ax GN*** 12/15 Marvel $5.95
Ernie Colon fantasy GN
❑ ***Badger 46*** 12/8 First $1.95
❑ ***Batman 430*** 12/22 DC .75
Robin's still dead...
❑ ***Battle◊Armor 2*** Eternity $1.95
❑ ***Big 1*** Dark Horse $2
Adaptation of the Tom Hanks film
❑ ***Black Orchid 2*** 12/8 DC $3.50
Continuing the fully-painted prestige-format series by Gaiman and McKean–a CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Captain America 352*** 12/15 Marvel .75
❑ ***Captain Atom 25*** 12/8 DC $1
❑ ***Catwoman 1*** 12/22 DC $1.50
Mindy Newell and J.J. Birch explore the events leading Selina Kyle to become the Catwoman–A CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Cerebus Biweekly 2*** Aardvark-Vanaheim $1.25
❑ ***Cerebus Biweekly 3*** Aardvark-Vanaheim $1.25
Reprinting the very hard-to-find original issues of Cerebus–a CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Checkmate 13*** 12/15 DC $1.25
❑ ***Classic X-Men 32*** 12/29 Marvel $1.25
❑ ***Cloak and Dagger 4*** 12/29 Marvel $1.50
❑ ***Comico Christmas Special 1*** 12/8 Comico $2.50
Anthology collecting a variety of Christmas-related stories–art by Rude, Williamson, and more
❑ ***Conan 217*** 12/22 Marvel 41
❑ ***Conan Saga 23*** 12/29 Marvel $2
❑ ***COPS 8*** 12/8 DC $1
❑ ***Cosmic Heroes 4*** Eternity $1.95
Reprinting classic Buck Rogers strips
❑ ***Daredevil 265*** 12/8 Marvel .75
Inferno crossover delayed from last issue
❑ ***Dark Horse Presents 25*** Dark Horse $1.95
❑ ***Dark Wolf 10*** Eternity 41.95
❑ ***Dark Wolf Annual 1*** Eternity $2.25
❑ ***Death's Head 2*** 12/22 Marvel $1.75
❑ ***Denizens of Deep City 1*** Kitchen Sink $2
New Doug Potter slice-of-life series
❑ ***Detective 596*** 12/8 DC .75
❑ ***Dino-Riders 2*** 12/29 Marvel $1
❑ ***Dinosaurs for Hire 5*** Eternity $1.95
❑ ***Dirty Pair 1*** 12/22 Eclipse $2
All-new comics adventures of the popular team of Japanese heroines–a CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Doc Savage 6*** 12/15 DC $1.75
❑ ***DP 7 30*** 12/15 Marvel $1.50
❑ ***Dr. Fate 3*** 12/8 DC $1.25

❑ ***Dr. Zero 6*** 12/22 Marvel $1.50
❑ ***Dragon's Claws 7*** 12/22 Marvel $1.75
❑ ***Dragonlance 5*** 12/22 DC $1.25
Based on the popular TSR gaming series
❑ ***Dreamery 13*** 12/15 Eclipse $2
❑ ***Elric: Bane of the Black Sword 5*** 12/29 First $1.95
❑ ***Epic Silver Surfer HC*** 12/8 Marvel $1.95
Hardcover edition of Stan Lee/Moebius limited series with new pages – A CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Everything's Archie 141*** 12/15 Archie .75
❑ ***Ex-Mutants Winter Special 1*** Eternity $1.95
❑ ***Excalibur 7*** 12/8 Marvel $1.50
❑ ***Fantastic Four 325*** 12/29 Marvel .75
❑ ***Firestorm 82*** 12/15 DC $1
Ostrander and Grindberg continue this Invasion!-inspired story
❑ ***Fish Police 14*** 12/8 Comico $1.75
❑ ***Flash 23*** 12/15 DC $1
Guess who can't run very fast any more?
❑ ***Fright Night 6*** 12/29 NOW $1.75
❑ ***Ghostbusters 8*** 12/29 NOW $1.75
❑ ***GI Joe 85*** 12/22 Marvel $1
❑ ***GI Joe European Missions 7*** 12/8 Marvel $1.75
❑ ***GI Joe Special Missions 20*** 12/8 Marvel $1
❑ ***Ginger Fox 4*** 12/15 Comico $1.75
Final issue of limited series
❑ ***Greatest Joker Stories Ever Told HC*** 12/8 DC $19.95
A hefty collection of classic stories pitting Batman against his nemesis – A CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Green Arrow 15*** 12/22 DC $1.25
❑ ***Grendel 26*** 12/8 Comico $1.75
Wagner, Geldhof, Snyder, and Matt continue the story of Grendel and Pope Innocent XLII in "Devil's Tracks"–a CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Grey 3*** Viz $2.95
❑ ***Grimjack 57*** 12/15 First $1.95
❑ ***Groo 50*** 12/15 Marvel $1
❑ ***Gumby's Winter Fun special 1*** 12/22 Comico $2.50
Gumby goes to heck in this all-new adventure featuring Art Adams artwork–a CSN Hot Pick
❑ ***Havok & Wolverine 2*** 12/15 Marvel $3.50
Walt and Louise Simonson write and Jon J Muth and

ULTRAGUY GETS MARRIED! continues...

ULTRAGUY & JOE POWER™

by Ward Batty & Charlie Williams

SO COME ON--WE'RE NEEDED! WE'VE A PURPOSE!
I'LL KILL YOU FOR THIS.
--AS THEY HURL ACROSS TOWN, JOE POWER EXPLAINS THE ENTIRE SITUATION TO ULTRAGUY...
--AND THEN THERE'S LINTMAN--
I SAID I'M NOT LISTENING--! HMMMLA!LA-LA-LAA!
OKAY, SUPERVILLAINS--YOU'VE HAD IT, NOW! I'VE BROUGHT ULTRAGUY!
3rd NATL. BANK
♫ I'M NOT HEARING ANYTHING BEING SAID, LA-LA LALAA! ♫
--AND SO THE BATTLE ROYAL BEGINS!
NOW, SEE? ISN'T THIS MUCH NICER? WORK WITH US AND EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.
WELL, GOOD?OOF?! HAPPINESS IS?OUCH? ALL THAT?UGH? MATTERS!
♫LALALA♫
♫♫LALALALA♫♫!
CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

Have you seen anything in this issue of ***Comic Shop News*** that you can't live without? Make sure you don't miss it; clip this handy coupon and write down the things that you want you comics shop owner to be sure to get for you!

Name_____

Address_____

Phone(H)_____(W)_____

I gotta have 'em! Please reserve for me the following items mentioned in ***Comic Shop News!***

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Be sure to give this to your retailer. **Do not send it to *CSN!*** Your comics shop will make every effort to get the items you want; some items may require a down payment before your shop owner can get them for you; be sure to ask!

UPCOMING COMICS QUICKLIST

Kent Williams illustrate this fully painted series–A CSN Hot Pick

❑ ***Haywire 7*** 12/22 DC $1.50

❑ ***Heathcliff 32*** 12/15 Marvel $1

❑ ***Hellblazer 16*** 12/22 DC $1.50

❑ ***Hulk 354*** 12/22 Marvel .75
The Hulk dukes it out in Las Vegas–and is Bruce Banner on his way back? Only Peter David knows for sure

❑ ***Invasion! 3*** 12/8 DC $2.95
Bart Sears illustrates the finale to this year's DC gala crossover series – A CSN Hot Pick

❑ ***Jezebel Jade 3*** 12/15 Comico $2
Final issue of Messner-Loebs/Kubert limited series

❑ ***Jonny Quest 31*** 12/22 Comico $1.75
Final issue of popular series features the sound of wedding bells...

❑ ***Justice 30*** 12/22 Marvel $1.50

❑ ***Justice League International 24*** 12/15 DC $1.50
Final Kevin Maguire issue also introduces Justice League Europe, set to star in their own series in 1989--A CSN Hot Pick

❑ ***Justice Machine 24*** 12/8 Comico $1.75

❑ ***Justy 2*** Viz $1.75
New sf series of manga translations

❑ ***Kafka's Execution and other Stories 1*** Fantagraphics $2.25
Leopoldo Duranona adapts four classic stories by Franz Kafka

❑ ***Kiku San 2*** Aircel $1.95
Elves duke it out beneath the city

❑ ***Laugh Digest 81*** 12/8 Archie $1.35

❑ ***Legion of Super-Heroes 57*** 12/22 DC $1.75

❑ ***Life with Archie 271*** 12/8 Archie .75

❑ ***Light & Darkness War 5*** 12/22 Marvel $1.95

❑ ***Little Archie Digest 35*** 12/22 Archie $1.35

❑ ***Lone Wolf & Cub 20*** 12/8 First $2.50

❑ ***Manhunter 10*** 12/15 DC $1

❑ ***Marvel Age 73*** 12/22 Marvel .50
Focus on the Avengers

❑ ***Marvel Comics 16*** 12/15 Marvel $1.25

❑ ***Marvel Comics 17*** 12/29 Marvel $1.25
Featuring a special John Byrne She-Hulk story-prequel to new series; Byrne does cover, which features his first Cyclops drawing in years–A CSN Hot Pick

❑ ***Marvel Fanfare 43*** 12/22 Marvel $1.95
Mantlo, Mignola, and Russell present an offbeat Sub-Mariner story

❑ ***Marvel Tales 222*** 12/22 Marvel .75
The Spidey/Punisher reprint series wraps up with this issue–n issue begins Spidey-X-Men reprint stories

❑ ***Maxwell Magic Cat Boxed Set*** 12/8 Eclipse $15
Presenting all four volumes of the Alan Moore strip series in a slipcase–a CSN Hot Pick

❑ ***MAZE Agency 1*** 12/15 Comico $1.75
Play-fair mystery series by Mike Barr and Adam Hughes–a CSN Hot Pick

❑ ***Michelangelo 1 reprint*** Mirage $1.50
TMNT micro-series reprint

❑ ***Mr. Miracle 2*** 12/22 DC $1
Mr. Miracle drops in on Dr. Bedlam's dimension for a little fun

❑ ***Nam Magazine 9*** 12/15 Marvel $2

❑ ***Nausicaa of the Valley of Wind 2*** Viz $2.50

❑ ***New Guardians 7*** 12/8 DC $1.25

❑ ***New Mutants 74*** 12/15 Marvel $1

❑ ***Next Nexus 4*** 12/22 First $1.95
Who will be the next Nexus–keep reading and see!–A CSN Hot Pick

❑ ***Nexus 55*** 12/8 First $1.95

❑ ***Ninja High School TPB*** Eternity $6.95

❑ ***Outlanders 1*** Dark Horse $2
New manga sf series – A CSN Hot Pick

❑ ***Pineapple Army 2*** Viz $1.75
New manga translation series featuring a former Vietnam vet who is a security advisor–a CSN Hot Pick

❑ ***Plastic Man 4*** 12/22 DC $1
Final installment of offbeat miniseries about the original stretchable hero

❑ ***Popeye TPB 8*** Fantagraphics $14.95

❑ ***Power Pack 45*** 12/22 Marvel $1.50

❑ ***Private Eyes 3*** Eternity $1.95
Reprinting the Saint comic strip

❑ ***Psi Force 30*** 12/8 Marvel $1.50

❑ ***Punisher 18*** 12/22 Marvel $1
The Punisher and the Kingpin face off in the finale of this storyline–A CSN Hot Pick

❑ ***Punisher's War Journal 5*** 12/29 Marvel 41.50

❑ ***Question 24*** 12/8 DC $1.75
Election results are in!

❑ ***Rael 1*** 12/8 Eclipse $6.95
Colin Wilson graphic novel

❑ ***Ralph Snart V. 3 #6*** NOW $1.75

❑ ***Ralph Steadman's America*** Fantagraphics $14.95
Trade paperback reprint of Steadman's vicious look at American society

❑ ***Robotech: Macross Saga 34*** 12/22 Comico $1.75

❑ ***Robotech: Sentinels 2*** Eternity $1.95
All-new Robotech series–a CSN Hot Pick

❑ ***Rog 2000 1*** Fantagraphics $2
Reprinting the John Byrne stories from E-Man

❑ ***Rust V.2 #2*** NOW $1.75
Painted series featuring Vince Locke art - A CSN Hot Pick

❑ ***Sable 14*** 12/29 First $1.95
Sable takes on a dangerous gang while B.B. Flemm's book stirs up a great deal of controversy

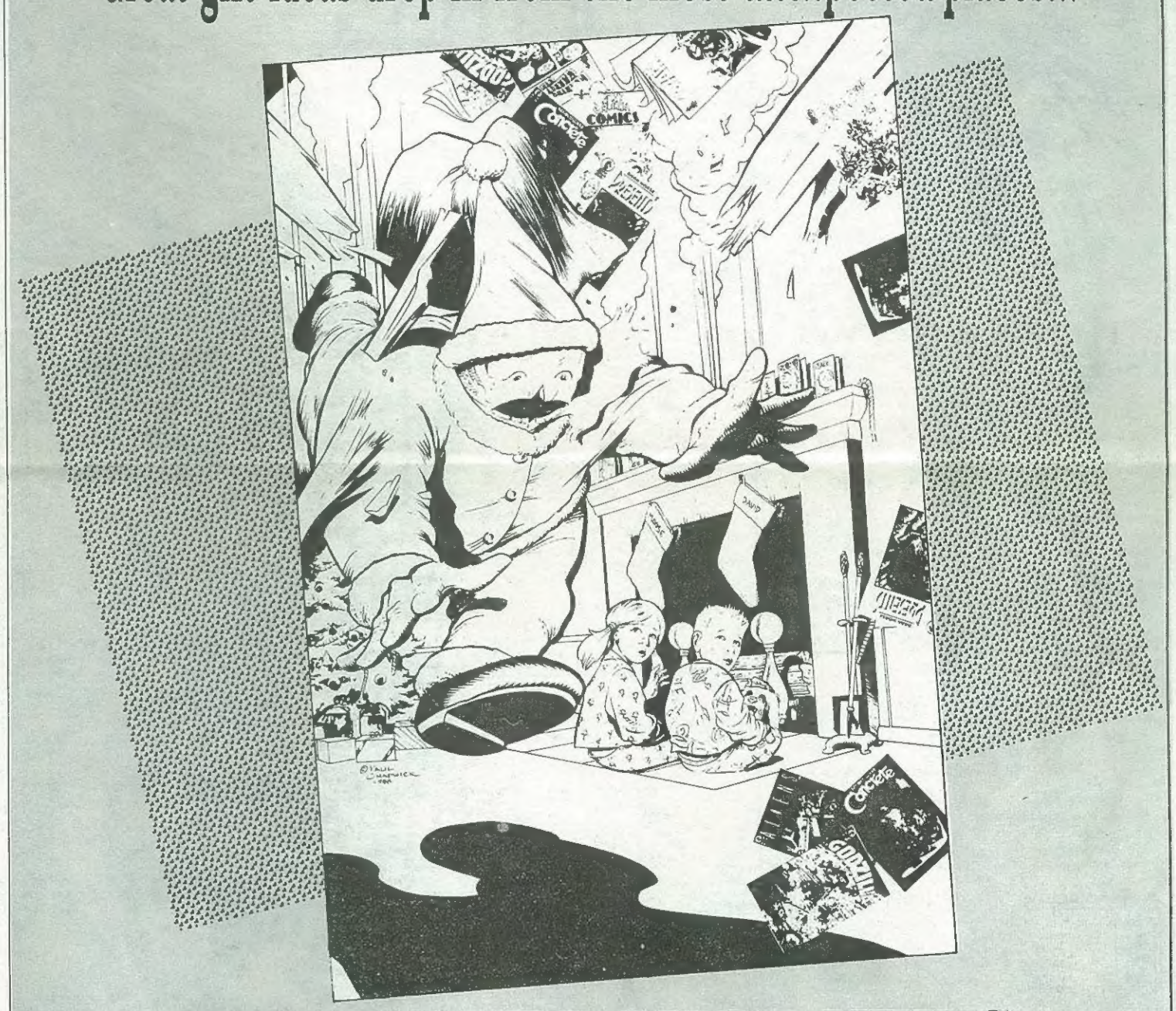
❑ ***Savage Sword of Conan 158*** 12/15 Marvel $2

❑ ***Scout: War Shaman 9*** 12/22 Eclipse $1.95
Scout and Beau La Duke face off against the Doodyists!

❑ ***Secret Origins 37*** 12/22 DC $1.50
Featuring the Legion of Substitute Heroes and Dr. Light

❑ ***Semper Fi' 5*** 12/8 Marvel .75
The action moves to Nicaragua in the 1920's

Great gift ideas drop in from the most *unexpected* places...



1988 COMIC SHOP NEWS

Christmas Special

It's here!--a double sized special featuring all the latest and best **graphic novels, deluxe items, hardcover collections, trade paperbacks, comic strip reprints, portfolios,** and all the other great holiday picks from **Marvel, DC, First, Starblaze, Eclipse, Dark Horse, Kitchen Sink, Father Tree Press, Comico, Eternity, NOW, Viz, NBM, Fantagraphics** and dozens of other publishers. Feature a beautiful color cover by **Paul Chadwick** featuring **Concrete!** This is one issue of ***CSN*** every fan will want to get! It's available ***now*** at finer comic shops everywhere!

UPCOMING COMICS QUICKLIST

❑ ***Shattered Earth 2*** Eternity $1.95
❑ ***Silver Surfer 22*** 12/22 Marvel $1
❑ ***Solo Avengers 17*** 12/15 Marvel .75
Featuring Hawkeye and the Black Panther
❑ ***Spectacular Spider-man 149*** 12/29 Marvel $1
❑ ***Speedball 8*** 12/29 Marvel .75
❑ ***Spicy Mysteries TPB*** Eternity $6.95
❑ ***Spicy Tales 5*** Eternity $1.95
Reprinting "naughty" stories from the '30s and '40s
❑ ***Spirit 50*** Kitchen Sink $2
❑ ***St. George 5*** 12/15 Marvel $1.50
❑ ***Stray Toasters 3*** 12/8 Marvel $3.50

Cover to *WEST COAST AVENGERS* #43

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